



Volume 53 Number 1

July 2016

\$10

TREDYFFRIN EASTTOWN HISTORY QUARTERLY



**The Hires Root Beer Family Story
and its Connections to Tredyffrin & Easttown Townships**

**2014 Gifts to the TEHS Archives
and Special Collections**

**Vintage Pullman Car Visits Paoli
Major Repairs at Valley Forge Park
Chesterbrook Redevelopment Progress**

From the Editors



The *History Quarterly* is published four times a year by the

**Tredyffrin Easttown
Historical Society**
720 First Avenue
Berwyn, PA 19312

A 501(c)(3) organization

Board of Directors

Officers

John O. Senior, *President*
J. Michael Morrison, *Vice-President*
Bonnie Haughey, *Secretary*
Tim Lander, *Treasurer*

Roger Thorne, *Board Chairman*

Marianne Hooper
Loyd Pakradooni
Greg Prichard
Heidi Sproat

Editors

John O. Senior
Heidi Sproat
Loyd Pakradooni

Distribution

Cheryl Leibold
Gretchen Kiernan
Bill Keltz

Subscription

A subscription to the *History Quarterly* is included with each membership in the Society. One copy per membership is mailed to the member household address.

Annual Membership Dues

Patron: \$125
Family: \$40
Student: \$24

Please visit our website for membership applications, details on upcoming programs, and other valuable information.

www.tehistory.org

ISSN: 1938-5676

At our April 2014 meeting, Society member Jeff Groff presented a wonderful and richly-illustrated history of the Charles E. Hires family and its connections to Tredyffrin and Easttown Townships. We are pleased to welcome Jeff back to the pages of the *Quarterly*, and include his written version of the story in this issue.

In what has become an annual tradition, Society Archivist Cheryl Leibold gave a presentation at the May 2015 meeting about the additions to the Society's archives made during the previous year (2014). She goes well beyond simply listing the acquisitions, and brings selected items to life by exploring their intriguing stories. Her article includes a number of enhancements to the original presentation, including some notes about the additions to the Society's Image Collection supervised by Heidi Sproat, and some background from Roger Thorne about a British military cap badge that he donated.

We were saddened by the recent passing of loyal member Margery Stratton, and a remembrance may be found in this issue.

Additional joys and sorrows include: 1) the good news that it appears that the over 200-year-old core of the Old Covered Wagon Inn building in Strafford will be preserved by the developers working on the construction of a new CVS store on the same property where it is located; and 2) the sad news that Wm. H. Fritz, Inc. in Berwyn is closing later this summer after 153 years in business. Please look for an article about the Fritz family and their venerable lumber yard enterprise in a future issue.



Fritz Lumber in Berwyn, July 2016. Photo © John O. Senior

Trash or Treasure?

It is not uncommon for us to hear from or about people who are in possession of some items that they may be uncertain how to value, but for which they would like to find a new home.

If you (or people you know) have photographs, drawings, maps, letters, documents, books, or other items of possible (or definite) historic interest that might be donated to the Society, please visit the Archives page of our website (<http://www.tehistory.org/archives.html>) and review our Collecting Policy, or contact us directly for more information. Email: archives@tehistory.org

Tredyffrin Easttown History Quarterly

Volume 53, Number 1

July 2016

CONTENTS

FEATURES

- 4 The Hires Root Beer Family Story
and its Connections to Tredyffrin & Easttown Townships
Jeff Groff
- 20 2014 Gifts to the TEHS Archives
and Special Collections
Cheryl Leibold

DEPARTMENTS

- 30 **In Memoriam:** Margery Stratton
- Notes and Comments:**
- 31 2016 Member Excursion to the Old Roberts School, *John O. Senior*
- 32 Vintage Pullman Car Visits Paoli, *John O. Senior*
- 33 Chesterbrook Redevelopment Progress, *John O. Senior*
- 34 Major Repairs at Valley Forge Park, *John O. Senior & Roger Thorne*
- 36 **Support Recognition**

Cover Descriptions

Front Cover: Hires Rootbeer Joke booklet cover, 1901, with Hires Rootbeer extract logo. *Courtesy of Jeff Groff*

Back Cover: UPPER: Dingee Estate Barn, corner of Lancaster Avenue and Chestnut Road, Paoli.
Courtesy of TEHS Image Collection

 LOWER: Walter T. Matthews, and his Ford dealership in Paoli, summer 1934.
Courtesy of Matthews Ford & TEHS Image Collection

© 2016 Tredyffrin Easttown Historical Society. Authors retain copyright of their contributions. The Society does not accept responsibility for the accuracy of the information in these articles. The Society retains the right to republish submitted material. Please contact the Society for permission to use any content in this publication.



Images from the archives

ABOVE: Dingee Estate Barn, corner of Lancaster Avenue and Chestnut Road, Paoli

BELOW: Walter T. Matthews, and his Ford dealership in Paoli, summer 1934

